

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Bidle Road Bridge No. F03-10 Inventory Number: F-4-107
Address: Bidle Road over Catoctin Creek Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Middletown Zip Code: 21769 County: Frederick
USGS Quadrangle(s): Middletown
Property Owner: Town of Middletown Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: 65
Project: Replacement of Bidle Road Bridge No. F03-10 Agency: Frederick County, MD Dept. of Public Work
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Sarah Traum Date Prepared: 11/16/2005
Documentation is presented in: Frederick County Public Library, Frederick County Department of Public Works
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Bidle Road Bridge F-03-10 carries Bidle Road over Catoctin Creek. This bridge is located approximately three-fourths of a mile southwest of the village of Middletown. This girder bridge has a span of approximately 77 feet, supported by a single pier. Four beams carry the two-lane road surface that is approximately 22-feet wide with no shoulder or sidewalk. An open metal railing is found on both sides of the bridge. The eastern approach to the bridge is down a steep hill, with a sharp curve immediately before the bridge. Short lengths of parged rubble retaining wall are immediately east of the bridge, with modern metal guardrails extending along the curve and hill. Similar parged stone retaining walls are found at the west end of the bridge, although the retaining wall on the northwest is partially deteriorated, with a modern metal guardrail located between this retaining wall and the roadway. These modern metal guardrails continue past the retaining walls, extending west of the bridge along both sides of Bidle Road. The concrete bridge pier has horizontal scoring, while the upstream side has a triangular face. Both of the abutments are of rubble stone parged with concrete. The girders rest on poured concrete beams above the rubble stonework of the abutments.

A bridge existed in this location at least since the mid-nineteenth century, as stone walls on the east end of the bridge are mentioned in deeds for adjoining property (FCER BGF1:595). The rubble stone abutments and retaining walls on the present bridge may date to this period. The current roadbed support structure, including the concrete pier, however, date to 1952 (Ken Harwood, Frederick County Department of Public Works, personal communication, 21 October 2005). The original form of this

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MHT Comments:

John Milner
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

1/6/06
Date

Robert
Reviewer, National Register Program

2/21/06
Date

200503580

bridge was most likely a timber structure, as this bridge type was most common for small rural bridges.

The Historic Highway Bridges in Maryland: 1631-1960 Historic Context Report was used to aid in evaluating the significance and integrity of Bidle Road Bridge No. F03-10. According to this historic context, Bridge No. F03-10 is associated with the "increasingly heavy employment of metal girder bridges for highway and railroad bridges, by governmental authorities (the State Roads Commission and county and municipal agencies)" (Spero and Berger 1995:C-17). This historic context states that metal girder bridges may be associated with significant transportation-related events, such as the improvement of specific highways. Bidle Road Bridge No. F03-10 is significant under National Register Criteria A for its association with Frederick County's Department of Public Works efforts to improve county roads and Criteria C for its design as a metal girder bridge. The replacement of a nineteenth century bridge, like that which previously carried Bidle Road over Catocin Creek, is an example of this improvement program. Character-defining elements of the metal girder bridge type include the beams, railing, abutments, and piers (Spero and Berger 1995:47). For a bridge to have integrity, it needs to retain all of these character-defining elements. Bridge No. F03-10 retains its metal girder beams, the railing, and concrete pier, however, the abutments for this bridge are not from the same period and instead are remnants of the earlier bridge at this crossing. Because Bridge No. F03-10 does not have abutments that are from the metal girder bridge's construction date, this bridge lacks sufficient character-defining elements to convey its significance as a metal girder bridge.

References:

Frederick County Equity Record (FCER)

1857-1858 □ Frederick County Equity Records. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD.

P.A.C. Spero & Company and Louis Berger & Associates

1995 □ Historic Highway Bridges in Maryland: 1631-1960: Historic Context Report. Prepared for Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore, MD.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

77°34.000' W

77°33.000' W

WGS84 77°32.000' W

39°27.000' N

39°27.000' N

39°26.000' N

39°26.000' N

39°25.000' N

39°25.000' N

Middletown, MD
7.5-minute USGS Quadrangle
1979

F-4-107
Bidle Road Bridge No. F03-10
Bidle Road over Catoctin Creek

MN ★ TN
10 1/4°

77°34.000' W

77°33.000' W

WGS84 77°32.000' W

0 1000 FEET 0 500 1000 METERS

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F.4-107

BIDDLE ROAD BRIDGE No. F03-10

FREDERICK Co., MD

SARAH TRAUM

10/2005

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO

BRIDGE AND NORTHWEST RETAINING WALL, VIEW TO SE

1 of 4

009 BA010A2X0N0 NNN- 2 6059

009

PC1- BW

551



F-4-107

BIDLE ROAD BRIDGE No. F03-10

FREDERICK Co., MD

SARAH TRAUM

10/2005

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST RETAINING WALL, VIEW TO NE

2 OF 4

018

PC1- BW

560



F-4-107

BIDLE ROAD BRIDGE No. F03-10

FREDERICK Co., MD

SARAH TRAUM

10/2005

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO

PIER AND UNDERSIDE OF BRIDGE, VIEW TO NW

012 BA010A2X0N0 NNN- 4 6059

3 of 4

012

PCI- BW

554



F-4-107

BIDLE ROAD BRIDGE No. F03-10

FREDERICK Co., MD

SARAH TRAUM

10/2005

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO

BRIDGE FROM EAST APPROACH, VIEW TO W

4 OF 4

014

PC1- BW

556